

BALDOCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To The Chairman and Members of the Baldock Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Thirtieth Report on the Health and sanitary conditions of your district, as required by the Ministry of Health under the Sanitary Officers' Orders.

The Report covers the period from 1st January to the 31st. December, 1945.

The Report is considerably curtailed, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

SECTION A:

Statistics and Social Conditions of the District

Area (in acres) ... ..	542
Residential Population (Registrar-General's Figure) ...	5,448
Local Estimate	5,705
Number of inhabited houses ... ..	1,178
Rateable value ... ..	£29,084
Sum represented by a penny rate.. ...	£112.18.5.

Vital Statistics

Births

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Live births: Legitimate ...	83	44	39
Illegitimate...	<u>11</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>
Totals ...	<u>94</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>46</u>

Birth Rate: ... ..	17.6
England & Wales... ..	16.1.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Still births: Legitimate ...	3	2	1
Illegitimate ...	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
Totals	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

Still birth rate per thousand live births: ...	42.5.
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Deaths

Male ... ..	21
Female ... ..	<u>29</u>
Total	<u>50</u>

Death Rate ... ..	9.4
England and Wales ... ..	11.4

1870

1871

1872

1873

1874

1875

1876

1877

1878

1879

1880

1881

1882

1883

1884

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:		<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate ...		<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Illegitimate ...		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals ...		<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

Infant Mortality Rate  
(Per 1000 live births) ... 42.5

The Chief causes of death were as follows:-

Ref.No.			
6	Tuberculosis of Resp. Sys.	...	1
13-16	Cancer	...	11
18	Intra Cran. Lesions	...	3
12	Heart Disease	...	12
20	Other diseases of Circ. Sys.	...	4
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	-
26	Appendicitis	...	-
27	Other digestive diseases	...	-
32	Con. Mal. Birth	...	2
33	Suicide	...	1
34	Road accidents	...	1
35	Other violent causes	...	-
36	All other cases	...	9
25	Diarrhoea under 2 yrs of age	...	2

Death from Cancer (all ages) ... 11  
Rate per thousand population ... 59.1

There were no deaths from Measles, Influenza, Scarlet Fever.

#### SECTION B:

##### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

#### (i) STAFF (1945)

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time):  
Bertram Suggit, M.B., Ch.B. (Leeds and Manchester)  
D.P.H. (Cambs.)  
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:  
Leslie R. Brown, M.R. San. I., A.F.A.S.

#### (ii) OTHER SERVICES

Laboratory, Ambulance, Nursing and Hospital services.  
The arrangements for these services are as in former years and are satisfactory.

#### SECTION C:

##### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF BALDOCK

#### 1. (i) Water.

The Baldock U.D.C. is the water supply authority  
Water is obtained in bulk from the First Garden City  
Limited's Pumping Stations at Baldock Road and Willian  
Road. Bacteriological samples have proved satisfactory.

#### (ii) Drainage and Sewerage.

No change in the system. Consulting Engineers have  
prepared two schemes, one for pumping the sewage to  
Letchworth Works and one for the installation of a new works  
at Baldock. The Council are now giving careful consideration  
to the Schemes.



2. Rivers and Streams.  
No change.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.  
No change.

(ii) Public Cleansing.

Despite the difficulty of labour, the collection of refuse and salvage has been very satisfactory. Fortnightly collection is made throughout the district except for shops and business premises, from which weekly collection is made. A controlled refuse tip is operated in conjunction with the Letchworth U.D.C.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Houses visited under Public Health Acts	36
Housing Acts	26
Factories and Workshops	6
Nuisances investigated	90
Prevention of Infectious Disease	12
Cowsheds, Dairies and Bakehouses	26
Butchers and other Shops	37
Rat Infestation	36
Miscellaneous	46
Preliminary Notices served	26
Statutory " "	-

(iv) Shops and Offices.

There are 81 shops in the district. All those dealing with food stuffs have been visited during the period, no contraventions found. No inspections of offices carried out.

(v) Camping Site.

(a) One site periodically used by gypsies.

(b) No licence granted.

(vi) Smoke abatement.

Observations have been taken and four visits to the boilermen have been made to rectify the nuisance. Improvements have been made but fuel supplies cause chief difficulty.

(vii) Swimming Pool (Private)

Samples taken each month by chemist employed by owners of the pool.

(viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Seven cases were reported and satisfactorily disinfested.

#### SECTION D:

#### HOUSING

1.. No new houses were completed during the year, but plans were approved for the Post-war Housing Scheme, and acquired a site which will accommodate about 250 houses. There are a number of houses which may be termed "border line" cases, a comprehensive list is kept and as soon as housing circumstances permit these will be dealt with. Essential repairs have in all cases been carried out in houses after a Preliminary Notice:-

Choked drains 12; Inspection covers provided 1;  
W.Cs. repaired 2. Waste pipes repaired or renewed 3;  
Water service pipes 2; Overflows causing dampness 5;  
Eaves, guttering, etc., repaired 2; Fireplaces 1;  
Roofs 4; Floors 3; Dampness remedied 4; Dirty  
condition 2.





2. Housing Act, 1936.      Overcrowding

Local conditions have caused numerous difficulties.

The present population of the district is 5,705 the population of 1938, was 3,829. There is inevitably a large number of cases of overcrowding which the Council are anxious to alleviate by the provision of new houses

SECTION E:

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply.

One farm in the area is licensed for producing, bottling and retailing Tuberculin Tested (Certified) and Accredited Milk. Seven other persons were registered as retail purveyors, two of whom have premises in the district. Close co-operation has been given by the Rural Inspector in whose district the majority of the milk is produced, and from the samples taken in both districts the standard of all milk was found remarkably good.

(b) Meat and other foods.

All fresh meat supplies are inspected at Letchworth, and the quality of meat coming into the district is remarkably good.

In addition, the following were condemned:-

2 Tins P k Sausage Meat; 1 Pigs Head; 25 - lbs Ham  
6 Tins Peas; 1 Tin Corned Beef; 25-lbs Cheese  
60-lbs Sultanas; 1 Tin Steak. 21 Tins Fish; 8 Tins Milk  
1 Tin Marmalade; 18 Stn Fish; 1 Tin Spinach; 17 Tins Beans;  
1 Tin Vegetables; 21 Tins Fish.

SECTION F:

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES

Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	13
Measles	...	...	...	...	186
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1

Tuberculosis

New cases during the period:-

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 1	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	1
35 - 45	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-
55 - 65 and over	-	-	-	-
	1	-	-	1





<u>Deaths</u>	-5-			
	Pulmonary Male	Pulmonary Female	Non-Pulmonary Male	Non-Pulmonary Female
5 - 15	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-
55 - 65 and over	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-

### CONCLUSION

The Birth Rate for 1945 slightly lower than for 1944 and there is a corresponding decrease in the national Birth Rate. It is to be noted that one out of eight births was illegitimate; the figure for 1944 was one in seven.

The death rate is low and 20% less than for England and Wales.

Out population figures are still rising, and locally compiled figures are in excess of the Registrar - Generals estimate.

I should here like to express my appreciation of the help given by my colleagues in the Health Department.

BERTRAM SUGGIT  
Medical Officer of Health.

